31st January 1936]

Proposals for the bifurcation of the district boards in the Ceded districts.

* 655 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there are proposals to bifurcate the district boards of the Ceded districts?

A.—No. Attention is however invited to the Press Communiqué, dated 15th January 1936, regarding bifurcation of district boards.

Postponement of the election of President of the District Board, South Kanara.

* 656 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the elections to the District Board of South Kanara were held;

(*b*) whether a meeting of the elected Members was convened to elect the President;

(*c*) if not, why it has not been held and at whose instance and under what provision of law has the election of the President been held up; and

(*d*) whether the Collector of South Kanara has reported against the holding of the election of the President; if so, whether the Hon. Minister will be pleased to place a copy of the same on the table of the House?

A.—(*a*) Elections to all but one circle were held in November 1935.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government in consultation with the Collector, considered it desirable to postpone the election till all the seats on the Board had been filled and instructed the Collector accordingly.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know what the reasons are that made the Government not to hold the election to the presidentship? " 11-15 a.m.

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The Government felt that the vacancy in one of the circles should also be filled before the election is held."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know whether an ordinary meeting of the board has not been called to transact ordinary business? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The hon. Member is no doubt aware that an ordinary meeting was called for before this vacancy was filled up."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—" May I know whether it is the intention of the Government that in every case when even one seat remains to be filled, the presidential election should be postponed, or is it only in special contingencies? "

[31st January 1936

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The Government have never held that an election when one vacancy remains unfilled is invalid. Each case has to be considered on its merits. In this case the Government considered that an opportunity should be given to voters in this circle to send their candidate."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether any petition was received praying that the election to the presidentship should be postponed on account of a vacancy pending?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" That I cannot say. A number of petitions were received on the point."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—" May I know what the report of the Collector on this point is?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" It is not desirable to state what exactly the Collector has reported. The answer says that the Government have in consultation with the Collector come to this decision."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Besides the reason given, are there any special considerations that induced the Government to decide that the president should not be elected till all the seats are filled?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The special consideration is that the Government felt that they should not encourage the practice of holding up elections by injunction petitions unless and until the Act or the rules have been violated by the election authorities."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know how long this administration has been in charge of the Collector?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot give the exact date: probably it was a date in November."

Strength of staff sanctioned for each district board.

* 657 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the strength is under various categories such as secretary, manager of the Engineer's office, superintendents, accountants, upper division clerks, lower division clerks, attenders, and peons which was originally allowed to each district board by the Government after they took power for regulating those establishments; and

(*b*) how many posts in each variety they have since sanctioned in addition, to each district board and what the special reasons are for doing so?

A.—The information asked for is not readily available. The Government consider that the public interests served by furnishing the information will not be commensurate with the time and labour involved in collecting it.